METRO'S SPACE RACE

EVER WONDER WHAT THE EARTH LOOKS LIKE FROM 60,000 METRES? A METRO READER WILL BE AMONG THE FIRST TO FIND OUT PAGE 5

LONDON metro®

Wednesday, March 7, 2012

News worth sharing.

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London, you're right on Q

Q Live. CBC Radio show to highlight local talent in London taping

ANGELA MULLINS
angela.mullins@metronews.ca

What does Jian Ghomeshi think about London and the Twitter campaign that brought him here?

"Impressive," "touching" and "gratifying" are a few of the words the CBC Radio host used to describe the Forest City's gumption.

"It's all a testament to the nature of social media and communication these days. You couldn't have done this 10 years ago," Ghomeshi said. "We were getting appeals from businesses and schools and workers and city council and the arts community. It was all crystallized very quickly.

"It was, 'Wow, this is how people can do things.'"

Jian Ghomeshi. CONTRIBUTED

One of the tipping points in wooing a taping of Q Live — Ghomeshi's weekday arts-and-culture digest — came in early December, when city councillors slipped on "Q" T-shirts at a public meeting.

The fervour continued when 850 tickets for the Grand Theatre taping were made available last month. They were snapped up within 45 minutes, prompting Ghomeshi and crew to schedule a "morning-after" show, along with a free meet-and-greet on Friday in Room 1050 of Western University's Althouse Building.

Doors open at 9:45 a.m., and the national broadcast of Thursday night's show will start at 10 a.m. Ghomeshi will take questions from the audience from noon to 1 p.m. For details, go to cbc.ca/q.

The show itself has a strong focus on local musicians and others with community ties.

"It's half a normal show and half a 'Let's celebrate London and send it across the nation's airwaves' show," Ghomeshi said.

How it happened

- **Tweet and greet.** London's Ian Gifford sent Jian Ghomeshi a tweet on Oct. 22 asking that Q Live make an appearance. Ghomeshi replied and the discussion sparked a competition among several Ontario communities. London was named the winner in December.

LAST CALL FOR SNOWFALL?

Nicholas Good, 4, left, sends a giant snowball soaring as Maximus Van Acker, 5, sneaks up from behind during a Tuesday-morning play date in Victoria Park. Any remaining snow could be gone by the end of the day Wednesday, as Environment Canada is calling for sunny skies and a high of 12 C. Thursday is expected to be another mild day, with a high of 10 C and rain. ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

Rafferty trial

Tori Stafford's Grade 3 teacher recalls a 'caring,' 'sensitive' little girl PAGE 3

Desert stars

If elbow-rubbing is your thing, celebrity-studded Palm Springs is the place for you. Just be sure to pack your dark glasses TRAVEL. PAGE 10

Great Seats Still Available!
Thursday, March 8th Knights vs. Guelph Storm 7:00 pm puck drop
Buy Tickets Today
519-681-0800
or in person at the OMAC Mortgages London Knights Armoury

Methadone licensing rules spark debate

Drug regulations. Administrators are expected to report back on the issue in June

ANGELA MULLINS
angela.mullins@metronews.ca

Proposed licensing regulations for businesses that dispense methadone have been sent back to city staff for further review.

Members of city council's public-safety committee made the decision Tuesday after hearing a proposal that would require the businesses pay a $700 licensing fee and have an annual meeting with neighbours.

Pharmacies and clinics would also be required to log the number of patients served and have an approved security plan on file with the bylaw enforcement office.

Setting a benchmark for which facilities must be licensed generated the most debate. The existing proposal would pertain to businesses that serve more than 30 methadone patients a day — a standard based partially on the amount of time spent filling the prescriptions.

City staff considers 30 patients the threshold between methadone being a facility's main business and one that's considered "ancillary."

Among those opposed is Shoppers Drug Mart. The city's definition of a methadone pharmacy "casts too broad of a net," the pharmacy's lawyer Barnet Kussner said.

Only one Shoppers in the city fills methadone prescriptions, he said. Methadone accounts for about seven per cent of the prescriptions filled there daily.

"(The proposed requirements) would be unprecedented, unreasonable and an unwarranted interference with a lawful business operation," Kussner told councillors.

Coun. Bill Armstrong questioned if the city has authority to regulate pharmacies, urging his colleagues not to rush into new rules.

"It has to be something we're not going to spend five years in court over," Armstrong said.

Mayor Joe Fontana questioned why the proposed bylaw calls for pharmacy and clinic operators to meet annually with community stakeholders.

Community meeting

"We don't even ask that of bars. Why would we force annual meetings each and every year at particular locations?"

Mayor Joe Fontana, questioning a proposed bylaw

Windy day doesn't deter window washer

John Whittle of London, an employee with Artech Window Cleaning, dangles over downtown on Tuesday while freshening up the glass on a building at Richmond Street and Dufferin Avenue. Despite wind gusts of up to 50 kilometres per hour, Whittle was hanging tight. ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

News in brief

Cool runnings

Prince Harry bolts forth in a race with the world's fastest runner in Jamaica on Tuesday. Watch the "race" at metronews.ca/video.

On the Web

How is social media affecting teens? The Hanging Out Online Project explores issues teens face while using tech. Scan the code for the story.

Crime. Six charged in alleged credit card fraud

London police have seized more than 3,000 stolen credit card numbers and arrested six people as part of a sweeping theft investigation.

Last month, investigators became aware of an online credit card fraud scam involving several people from London. Police say the accused purchased goods and services using stolen credit card information, then sold those products at a reduced price.

On Feb. 17, investigators searched a home on Huron Street. Police seized drugs, stolen property, and various fraud-related documents, including an electronic file that contained more than 3,000 credit card numbers, names, addresses and email accounts.

The accused are all charged with marijuana possession, possession of a credit card that had been obtained by crime and possession of property obtained by crime.

Marcia Luscombe, 30; Joseph Hodgkin, 41; Thomas Brownscombe, 22; James Bardoel, 28; OJ Stephenson, 18; and Emmett Campbell, 23, are charged. AM980/AM980.CA

Police allege the accused purchased goods and services with stolen credit cards. GETTY IMAGES

Animal welfare

Dozens of dogs removed from property

Animal welfare authorities seized 73 dogs after checking up on orders issued late last month in southwestern Ontario. The Ontario SPCA says the dogs were removed Tuesday at a property near Lucknow, south of Kincardine, Ont. They will remain in the care of the Ontario SPCA while the investigation continues. Officials investigated animal cruelty complaints at 16 locations on Feb. 27. No charges were laid but compliance orders were issued to owners for animal housing and medical treatment. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Close to playoffs

Lightning win by one point in Saint John

The London Lightning are one win away from a berth in the NBL of Canada championship. The Lightning defeated the Mill Rats 106-105 in the first game of their best-of-three semifinal in Saint John, N.B. London can clinch the series at home Friday night at 7 at the John Labatt Centre. A strong performance from the bench propelled the Lightning Tuesday night. London got 49 points from the pine, compared to 17 for the Mill Rats. League MVP candidate Gabe Freeman led the Lightning with 18 points. METRO

Opium from Turkey

Arrest made after drugs found in mailed package

A London man is facing drug charges after a package with about a kilogram of opium was found at a mail-processing plant in Montreal. RCMP say a package from Turkey was intercepted by the Canada Border Services Agency at the mail sorting facility. CBSA then alerted the RCMP. Mounties caught up with the accused in his vehicle on March 1. When he was arrested, police say they found him with marijuana and methamphetamines. Hassan Nassirbeghi, 47, is facing importation of opium and drug possession charges. AM980/AM980.CA

Cyber-crime

Local man faces child-porn charges

A London man faces child-pornography charges after police seized a computer system from a city residence.

Derek Choong, 47, is charged with one count of accessing child pornography. METRO

Sex-assault arrest

London police find wanted man

Police have charged a man wanted in a sexual-assault investigation. Police responded to a report of a sexual assault and forcible confinement Saturday at a London address. Rupert Cornelius, 32, has been charged with several offences. METRO

Rupert Cornelius CONTRIBUTED

TV show wants you

Heads up, bad London drivers

The producers of the Discovery Channel TV show Canada's Worst Driver are calling on Londoners to find the area's most delinquent motorists. Submissions can be sent to driver@propertelevision.com or call 1-866-598-2591. METRO

Farm out of cluck

Seen a big chicken lying around?

Provincial police are searching for a large glass-fibre chicken. OPP say the bird disappeared from a chicken farm near Simcoe, between last Thursday evening and early Friday. Whoever took it left the legs behind.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Fairs and festivals

Three London events honoured

The Western Fair, Home County Folk Festival and TD Sunfest were included among the top 100 events in Ontario at the Festival and Events Ontario convention in Niagara Falls last weekend.
METRO

'Lovely' Tori recalled by teacher

Testimony. Grade 3 teacher weeps as she describes eight-year-old Tori Stafford's final hours at school on day the girl went missing

On the last day of Victoria Stafford's life, the "lovely little girl" used a computer to research plants, got her tights wet by jumping in puddles, and had a time-out for goofing around, her teacher testified Tuesday.

The Grade 3 student also asked for permission to run back to her classroom at the end of the day to retrieve a pair of earrings she had forgotten, Jennifer Griffin Murrell told court.

Tori went to get them and left about one minute after the bell, behind her classmates.

Because the girl wasn't wearing the butterfly earrings, Griffin Murrell asked her if she had found them, and Tori said she had.

"I said, 'OK, hun, we'll see you tomorrow,'" Griffin Murrell told court.

She never saw Tori again.

The eight-year-old vanished shortly after leaving school that day — April 8, 2009.

Three months later, her partially clothed remains were found in garbage bags and under a pile of rocks in a field more than 100 kilometres from her home in Woodstock.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Fond recollections

"She was a caring little girl, very sensitive.... She always wanted to help."
Jennifer Griffin Murrell, Tori's teacher

Tori Stafford

Tearing down skating-rink shelter a sure sign of spring

Boys and Girls Club workers Scott Chrest, left, and Victor Velis, both of London, remove the warming shelter from the ice rink outside Covent Garden Market on Tuesday. The rink is closed for the season. Skating is expected to continue at Victoria Park through March 18, weather permitting. ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

Music. Bountiful Beethoven at London Orchestra

Orchestra London's 2012-13 season is in key with B — Beethoven.

The orchestra's Beethoven Experience features the composer's Eroica, Fifth and Ninth (Ode to Joy) symphonies.

Also lined up for the season are several guest artists, including violinists Jonathon Crow and Alexandre Da Costa, trumpeter Jens Lindemann, cellist Shauna Rolston, and conductors Victor Sawa, Brian Jackson and Uri Mayer.

Local talent will also be featured, including Orchestra London musicians Graham Lord (clarinet), Ron George (French horn) and Joseph Lanza (concert-master) and jazz songstress Sonja Gustafson.

The season opens with an all-Beethoven celebration Oct. 20, with music director Alain Trudel conducting Eroica and Piano Concerto No. 4, performed by pianist Janina Fialkowska.
METRO

How to get tickets

- **Subscriptions ($231-$378) are on sale now.** Single tickets are on sale May 15. Call 519-679-8778 or visit orchestralondon.ca for more information.

Bradley Williams, 3, looks on as his dad votes during Super Tuesday.
VINO WONG, THE ATLANTA JOURNAL & CONSTITUTION/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mitt takes Mass., Vt., Va. on Super Tues.

GOP. Rivals slug it out in 10-state race that will help decide the Republican party's presidential candidate

Mitt Romney has taken three states while his closest rival, Rick Santorum, has snagged two on so-called Super Tuesday, the biggest single day in the Republican presidential race and one the front-runner was hoping could finally give his campaign an impenetrable shield of momentum.

Romney crushed the competition in Massachusetts, where he served as governor for four years, and also handily won Virginia and Vermont. Santorum, meantime, won Tennessee and Oklahoma, where his stances on hot-button issues play well with both states' Christian evangelical voters.

Romney was looking to clear a significant hurdle on Super Tuesday in his dash to secure the presidential nomination while Santorum hoped some electoral successes would revive his flagging campaign and keep him nipping at the front-runner's heels.

But neither Santorum nor Newt Gingrich, who handily took his home state of Georgia, were on the ballot in Virginia, limiting opportunities for both men to gain ground on Romney, who took 58 per cent of the vote according to early, unofficial results. Ron Paul won 43 per cent. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Romney on Iran:

"The president speaks of common interests. Let me be very clear about this: We do not have common interests with a terrorist regime."

Mitt Romney, GOP presidential hopeful

Politics

PM ignores Elections Canada request

Prime Minister Stephen Harper is ignoring questions in Parliament about why his Conservative MPs rejected a request by Elections Canada for more power to verify financial returns.

The watchdog can't demand that political parties provide documentary evidence to back up their financial reports after each campaign. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Prime Minister Stephen Harper
SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Slippery slide

Train spills tons of potash in New Brunswick

A freight train carrying potash derailed early Tuesday at a New Brunswick rail yard, spilling some of its load.

The Canadian National Railway was moving 37 railcars to a potash terminal in Saint John when the train derailed at around 12:30 a.m., the New Brunswick Southern Railway said in an email. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

CSIS directive

Rights group demands feds fix torture policy

Amnesty International Canada wants the federal government to withdraw a directive permitting Canada's spy agency to share information even when there's a real risk it will lead to torture.

In a public letter, the group says the policy violates Canada's international obligations to prevent torture. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

PETA lovers take neuter campaign to the next level

PETA campaigners dressed up as giant condoms encourage Haligonians along Spring Garden Road to spay or neuter their pets on Tuesday afternoon. PETA members from Ottawa are touring cities in Atlantic Canada to spread their message.

RYAN TAPLIN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Niagara. Maid of the Mist tour to be back for April

Operators of the Maid of the Mist say the popular tour boats will be back in the water this year on both sides of the Niagara River Gorge.

The news comes after the Maid of the Mist Steamboat Co. — which lost the contract to run the boats after 165 years — had warned the attraction might not open this year.

The Niagara Parks Commission announced last month it had awarded a 30-year agreement for boat tour operations in the gorge to Hornblower Canada, a California-based company.

With Hornblower's service scheduled to start in 2014, the Maid of the Mist company said it wasn't sure it could stay in business for this summer's tourist season.

But after talks with the commission, it was agreed the company will go ahead with this year's tours, starting April 12.

It was not immediately known what would happen next year.

The Maid of the Mist boats ferry people from both the Canadian and American sides of the Niagara River to the base of the Horseshoe Falls under separate agreements with New York state and Ontario.

The first Maid of the Mist began operating in Niagara Falls in 1846, and the boats have been drawing more than two million passengers annually in recent years.

The new service will include upgraded passenger facilities and new boats. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Anonymous

Hacker group breached MP's privacy: Speaker

House of Commons Speaker Andrew Scheer has ruled Public Safety Minister Vic Toews' parliamentary privileges were breached by videos posted online by the group Anonymous, clearing the way for the hackers to be hauled before MPs.

"These videos contained various allegations about the minister's private life, and made specific and disturbing threats," Scheer said.

The YouTube video shows a headless man in a black suit under a red maple leaf and laurels as a computer-generated voice demands Toews' quit and calls for the online-surveillance bill to be scrapped. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Nunavut fire: ‘It’s not a stretch to say there’s gross negligence’

Indictment. Former fire marshal says government should have known apartment block didn’t meet building codes

Fire crews battle a Iqaluit fire on the frigid Arctic night of Feb. 27. SARAH ROGERS, NUNATSIAQ NEWS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Nunavut’s former fire marshal says the territorial government should have known an apartment block that was the scene of a fatal blaze didn’t meet modern building codes.

Tony Noakes, who lost his job in May 2010 after he voiced related concerns, says similar problems exist throughout the territory.

“I’m concerned government hasn’t implemented any recommendations I put forward in my report in 2009,” Noakes, who now lives in Lyndhurst, Ont., said Tuesday.

“Maybe something could have been done to save these people.

“It’s not a far stretch to say there’s gross negligence here.”

At least two people died when a 22-unit block in Iqaluit’s White Row apartments went up in flames on the frigid night of Feb. 27.

The building was being used as a residence for Nunavut Arctic College and all the tenants but one were students or their families.

Some 83 people were forced outside in -50 C temperatures and lost everything in the fire.

Reports have said the two who died were adult children of an Arctic College student.

Remains of one person were found Friday and police reported Monday that a second set of remains had been found.

An RCMP forensic team was on the site.

Landlord Nunastar Properties said repairs were made and inspected in the 200 block after a Jan. 23, 2000, inspection report.

Spokesperson Kristin Scott said Nunastar buildings get regular fire inspections.

“All of our buildings have received fire-safety-related upgrades over the years and are subject to annual inspections of fire safety equipment,” she said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Problems

- **Report.** Noakes pointed to a fire inspection dated Jan 23, 2000, that outlined a series of structural problems with White Row’s 200 block.
- **Location.** The White Row units that burned were part of the 300 block, not the 200 block. But Noakes says all parts of the complex would have had the same problems.

Sex. Suburban mom or madam — she’s jailed on a $2 million bond

Is Anna Gristina a mom — or a madam?

Prosecutors say she’s an arrogant, multimillion-dollar head of a prostitution ring.

They say she has boasted of ties to law enforcement and has stashed cash to flee if authorities close in on her.

But Gristina’s advocates portrayed her Tuesday as a dedicated suburban mom, animal rescuer and former real estate broker who was working on building an online dating service.

The reality is Gristina is jailed on a seven-figure bail on a single charge of promoting prostitution.

Millionaire?

- Prosecutors say Gristina was heard during a five-year investigation saying she’d made millions of dollars over about 15 years of arranging trysts.

“A caring mother of four has been slapped with a $2 million bond” one of her lawyers, Peter Gleason, said after a New York judge refused Tuesday to lower the bail.

Gristina, a bespectacled 44-year-old Scottish immigrant, has pleaded not guilty.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

California

Cannon blast kills woman

A 33-year-old woman died Tuesday after a homemade cannon blew a projectile into a mobile home in a remote California community.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Moldova

Pedophiles face chemical penalty

Foreigners convicted of sexually abusing children in Moldova will be chemically castrated, according to new legislation approved Tuesday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The SXC Lynx spaceship carries two people — the pilot-astronaut and a passenger. ALEX STOKES/FOR METRO

Historic Metro contest will send reader into space

One of our readers will reach the highest of heights — Metro is the first newspaper to send a contest winner to space.

The Metro Race for Space 2012 competition is global and the prize is the stuff dreams are made of.

Ours is the first generation to have the opportunity to explore space as a tourist and a Metro reader will be one of the first to do it.

What will it be like?

Your chance to soar

The Metro Race for Space contest is ground-breaking.

- **Enter the contest at metroinspace.com.**
- **Information on the SXC Lynx spacecraft is at spacexc.com.**
- **Total prize value is $100,000.**

At 60,000 metres the curvature of the Earth can be seen clearly, surrounded by the black void of outer space.

To prepare for the weightlessness, the contest winner will be required to undergo two to four days of training in the Netherlands.

The SXC Lynx takes off from Curaçao in the Caribbean for a one-hour flight.

Participants are required to complete a quiz and submit an inspiring proposal.

In addition to the global winner, a local winner will receive a secondary prize.

The local winner will be selected based on the highest number of Facebook “likes.”

The global winner — the person who gets to go into space — will be selected by a global jury that includes Metro International members. They will conduct in-depth interviews.

The winner must be 18 years old by liftoff in 2014.

METRO

Financial fraud

RBC settlement to reimburse Ponzi scheme victims

Scores of people defrauded in a high-profile Quebec pyramid scheme will be reimbursed for roughly half of what they lost, thanks to an out-of-court settlement announced Tuesday.

Victims of financial fraudster Earl Jones reached the $17-million settlement in their class-action lawsuit with the Royal Bank of Canada, the bank said. The sum represents just under half the amount of $40 million that victims had been seeking in their lawsuit.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sweet treats go high-tech

A new 24-hour cupcake "ATM," an automatic machine that will be continuously restocked to dispense fresh cupcakes, is tested at Sprinkles Cupcakes in Beverly Hills, Calif., on Monday. The machine features a touchscreen and a robotic arm that pulls the right flavoured cupcake from a wall of single-serving boxes inside the store. The bakery is launching the first high-tech vending machine Tuesday, with three more in the works for New York City by the summer. DAMIAN DOVARGANES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Moment

DOLLAR
$99.94 US
(-0.64¢)

TSX 12,298.63 (-225.31)

OIL $104.70 US (-$2.02)

GOLD $1,672.10 US (-$31.80)

Natural gas: $2.36 US (no change)
Dow Jones: 12,759.15 (-203.66)

Debt deal

Greek banks agree to bond-swap deal

Greece's government on Tuesday said the country's six major banks have agreed to participate in a bond-swap deal, a move likely to relieve financial authorities as a deadline looms. The deal aims to cut over $139 billion.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pipeline proposal

New Keystone route in works

A new route for the controversial Keystone XL oil pipeline through Nebraska should be ready within weeks with "relatively modest" changes, TransCanada executive Alex Pourbaix said Tuesday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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JUST SAYIN'
Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca/justsaying

The next time you feel the urge to buy a lottery ticket, blame Louise White.

She's the little 81-year-old lady from Rhode Island who won $336.4 million after she bought the winning ticket at a Stop & Shop.

And now she has all her money in what she calls the Rainbow Sherbet Trust in honour of the sherbet she bought along with the ticket.

Louise White STEW MILNE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

At first, she couldn't believe her good fortune, at one point turning off her computer and turning it back on again. The numbers were still the same. She kept the winning ticket in her Bible until it was time to claim her prize.

Ain't that cute?

I hate Louise White.

Just when I've finally made a rational decision to stop throwing perfectly good money down the toilet, never to be spent again, someone like Louise White pops up. Even though there's a one-in-175,223,510 chance of winning the Powerball, Louise won it anyway. I mean there's as much chance of Louise winning the Powerball lottery as there is of that rainbow sherbet winning the Powerball lottery.

So, starting today, it's back to throwing good money down the toilet. If you don't play, it don't pay — or something.

Just imagine?

My wife, who never fails to buy a lottery ticket for the 6-49 or Lotto Max, spends the rest of the week figuring out how she's going to spend the money. IMHO, she always gives too much of it away.

My wife, who never fails to buy a lottery ticket for the 6-49 or Lotto Max, spends the rest of the week figuring out how she's going to spend the money. IMHO, she always gives too much of it away. Right off the bat, half goes to "Africa," while the rest goes to pay the debts of everyone in her extended family, leaving insufficient funds to keep me in the lifestyle to which I could easily become accustomed.

It never occurs to me, until halfway into the argument, that it's not going to happen anyway and I'm getting all red in the face for nothing, when there are lots of more important things I could get red in the face about.

Still, consider LeRoy and Deborah, Louise's son and daughter-in-law. LeRoy and Deborah didn't even have to fork over two bucks to buy the ticket, and now they're the beneficiaries of Louise's good fortune. I wonder if they ever had the argument. My wife is aware of my vulnerable position. "No money for you," she warns.

Fair warning: The odds of winning the Lotto Max are much better than winning the Powerball. Only one in 85,900,584. More than twice as likely. Of course, the odds of being struck by lightning are only 2.3 million to one. The odds of being hit by an ice-cream delivery truck full of rainbow sherbet are only one in 625.

Which reminds me to look both ways before I cross the street. On my way to the lottery kiosk.

Usain, is this how you do it?

GETTY IMAGES

World's fastest

Strike a pose

KINGSTON, JAMAICA. It's practice makes perfect for Prince Harry as the third-in-line to the British throne tries to copy the signature victory pose of sprint star Usain Bolt at the University of the West Indies track.

Harry, 27, is touring the Caribbean as part of the Diamond Jubilee. **MWN**

A race to the finish

Prince Harry wins

RACE. The prince got off to a false start and was about 50 metres down the track as Bolt lifted his arms in mock disbelief.

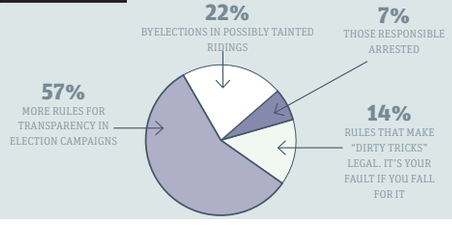
Harry kept on running to cross the finish line. "He cheated," Bolt said. "I said we would have a rematch in London 2012 and Harry said, 'I'm busy.'" **MWN**

Metropolitan Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

What do you most want to see come out of the "robocalls" investigation?

Survey says...


22%
BYELECTIONS IN POSSIBLY TAINTED RIDINGS
7%
THOSE RESPONSIBLE ARRESTED
57%
MORE RULES FOR TRANSPARENCY IN ELECTION CAMPAIGNS
14%
RULES THAT MAKE "DIRTY TRICKS" LEGAL. IT'S YOUR FAULT IF YOU FALL FOR IT

Twitter

@Jvonwahl11:
Be real about who you are, don't buy into stereotypical behaviour. When your fake to survive people will never understand you #ldnont #1love

@knitty_kat:
Knitting, chatting & coffee at Cheap & High. Man saying cheap & hi makes me giggle! #ldnont

@TammyLeeMarche:
Does anyone in #ldnont have any idea where I can purchase a swipe card system, you know like the ones used in loyalty programs? #appreciated

@briannapeniuk:
Still haven't gotten used to not receiving 50+ election emails a day. Not that I'm complaining. #westernu #voteusc

@lilyLILYlilaay:
lol at the twelfth graders saying they got into uwo..you should probably know the name of the school you're going to next year

metro

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SCENE

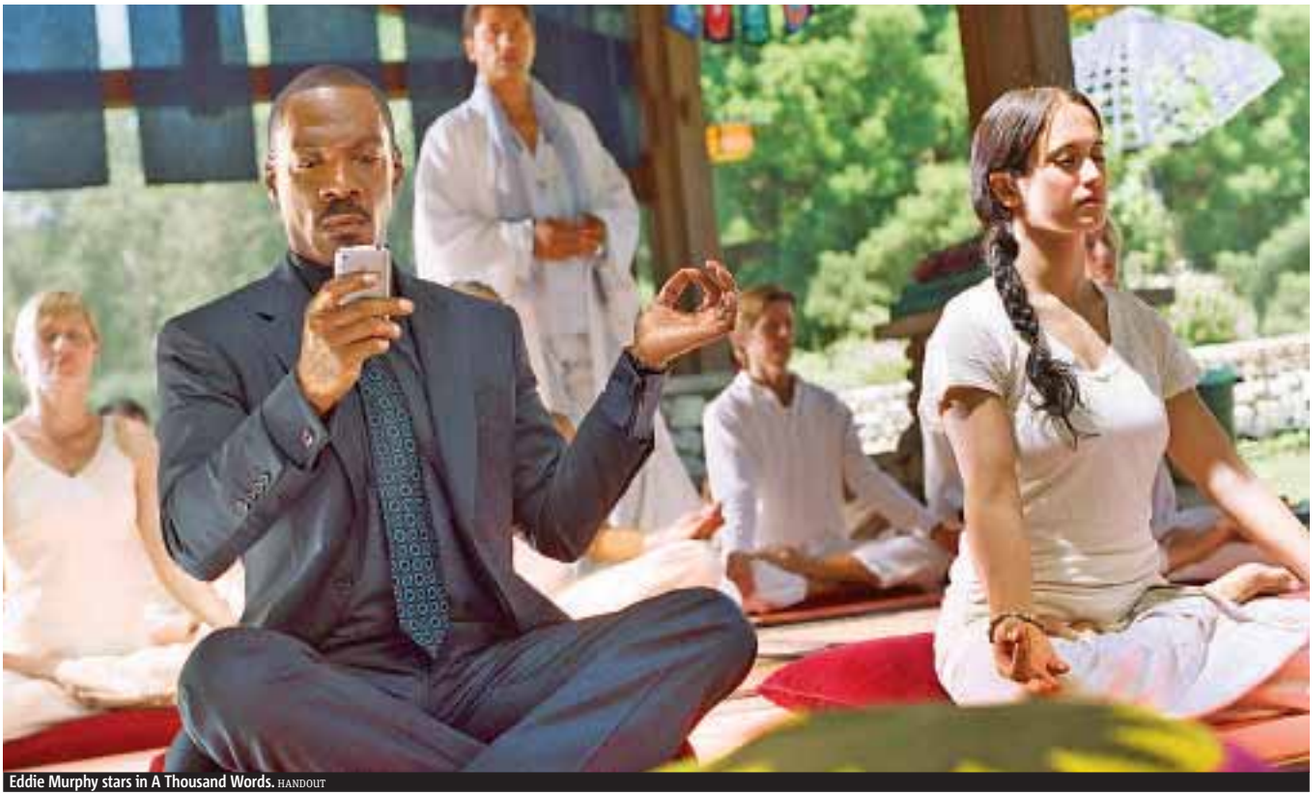
Trending

Get ready for iPad 3

Apple is set to unveil its iPad 3 at an invite-only event today. Metro has teamed up with Mike Yawney, the technology specialist with Citytv, to bring you the latest from the event. Visit metronews.ca/apple to follow Yawney as he tweets live from the announcement.

On the Web

Scan this code or visit metronews.ca/apple for more on the iPad 3 launch.



Eddie Murphy stars in A Thousand Words. HANDOUT

Going gaga for gurus

Spiritual humour. Comedy mixed with spirituality can work if done well — or prove toxic for both audiences and critics

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

What do spiritual gurus and comedy have in common? More than you might think.

Deepak Chopra, possibly the world's most famous guru, says, "When your soul responds to the paradox of our existence, to the contradictions of our existence, to the fact that wherever there is joy there is suffering, when your soul recognizes this, it can do nothing except laugh."

In other words, chuckle — it's good for your soul.

These are words to live by, particularly if you are Eddie Murphy in A Thousand Words, opening this weekend. In this comedy, Murphy plays a shady literary agent who cheats a spiritual guru in a business deal. His punishment teaches him the value of every word that comes out of his mouth.

A Thousand Words isn't the first comedy to go gaga for gurus.

In the 1968 counter-culture hit I Love You, Alice B. Toklas!, Peter Sellers plays a 30-something who visits a maharishi for enlightenment. "You will know yourself when you stop trying," he is told. "I'm trying to stop trying," Sellers replies.

A year later came The Guru, a movie that echoed the real-life musical journey of Beatle George Harrison's internship with Ravi Shankar. Michael York starred as a famous British rock 'n' roller who travels from London to Bombay to study sitar at the feet of guru Ustad Zafar Khan.

Director James Ivory (who along with producer Ismail Merchant would go on to make Howard's End and The Remains of the Day) called The Guru "the most unseen and mysterious of our movies … Merchant Ivory's version of a '60s trip."

Sharing a title is the 2002 Jimi Mistry film about a young Indian man who moves to New York with dreams of becoming an actor but instead becomes a sex guru who doles out catchphrases such as, "the most powerful sexual organ is your brain."

In The Love Guru, Mike Myers mixed gross-out humour with spiritualism, a combo that proved toxic for both audiences and critics.

Even Mike's own guru agreed it flopped. "Humour mixed with spirituality can work, if it's done well," Deepak Chopra, who has a cameo in the film, said. "But frankly speaking, this was not a good attempt."

So what exactly do gurus and comedy have in common?

Myers says he learned from Chopra that "ha ha" is related to "ah ha," the sound one makes upon the realization of truth." Maybe it's that simple.

Country singer laments friends in low places

An emotional Garth Brooks said his addition to the Country Music Hall of Fame at 50 is probably a little premature when you look at the long list of his influences who haven't yet been inducted.

The Friends in Low Places singer transformed country music, but on Tuesday he was more interested in talking about the singers who transformed him. Brooks spoke during a news conference to announce he will be inducted later this year with singer Connie Smith and keyboard player Hargus "Pig" Robbins.

"You're excited," Brooks said. "You feel very honoured. But at the same time there's this kind of guilt or, I don't know what it is, a kind of embarrassment, so you feel uneasy because I wouldn't be standing here today talking to you if it wasn't for Randy Travis. I wouldn't be standing here talking to you today if it wasn't for Ricky Skaggs, Keith Whitley, Steve Wariner, these guys.

"I think eventually they will get in, but it probably should've been before Garth Brooks came in. That's the whole feeling for the day."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Kirk Cameron's former Growing Pains co-stars won't show him that smile

Born-again Christian and former Growing Pains star Kirk Cameron recently told CNN's Piers Morgan that being gay is "unnatural," "detrimental" and "ultimately destructive to so many of the foundations of civilization," and his remarks have earned him a considerable amount of blowback.

Kirk Cameron

Among those criticizing Cameron? His former sitcom co-stars. Tracy Gold posted to Twitter, "I am a strong supporter of the LGBT Community, and I believe in equal rights for all," while Alan Thicke, who played Cameron and Gold's father on Growing Pains, posted, "I'm getting him some new books. The Old Testament simply can't be expected to explain everything." METRO

Reality star off the rails

Tila Tequila: Was it an aneurysm, overdose or suicide attempt?

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

Was Tila Tequila's recent hospitalization due to a brain aneurysm, a drug overdose or a suicide attempt? Whatever the reason, the former reality star is all kinds of WTF.

Radar Online is saying that a brain aneurysm made her "think irrationally" and ingest "two bottles of unspecified heavy prescription drugs."

"Tila threw up all over her bed after overdosing and felt like she was dying. She was screaming for help, and in desperation, broke her bedroom window and attempted to jump out," a source says.

"Finally, a friend came over after getting a strange text from her and found her convulsing on the bed. He called an ambulance and she was taken to the hospital."

Reports say Tequila was treated at two different hospitals over a week's span, but she's not out of the woods yet. "She still can't fully speak properly," the source says. "It's sad to think she may have some permanent brain damage." But TMZ.com says all the drama was caused by a suicide attempt and that she'd been trying "kill herself all week."

We've said it once, we'll say it a million times: Mamas, don't let your daughters grow up to be reality TV stars.

Tila Tequila ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Twitter

@ActuallyNPH
That Kirk Cameron is hilarious!

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3 LIFE

Travel in brief

Flower power

If you are looking for palm trees and white sand to escape the remnants of winter, look no farther than Philadelphia. Visitors to the city's International Flower Show can wander through a tropical paradise of sorts thanks to this year's theme, Hawaii: Islands of Aloha. The weeklong horticultural extravaganza opens Sunday. Exhibits include a fantasy surf shack, a beach wedding, a 7.5-metre-tall waterfall and a tribute to Pele, the Hawaiian goddess of fire. Hula dancers and musicians from the Aloha State will perform, and contestants will vie for prizes in daily floral arranging competitions modeled after the Iron Chef TV show.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the Web

Florida Keys offer rare motorcycle ride into the sun, over the sea

Palm Springs has a casual vibe not found in Hollywood. GOINGSLO/ FLICKR

The stars are brighter near the Mojave Desert

Palm Springs. The Travellin' Canadian checks out a Hollywood mecca

THE TRAVELLIN' CANADIAN
Darren Parkman
travel@metronews.ca

There's more to Palm Springs than dusty desert and palm trees. In fact, this sunny vacation paradise has become a mecca for the rich and famous.

Not only did the city's late great celeb mayor Sunny Bono recreate Hollywood, with the California city's own walk of fame, he ushered in one of the most impressive film festivals in North America, right there in the middle of the Mojave.

It was a thrill for me to actually get a chance to hit the red carpet and hobnob with some of the biggest stars on the planet at a recent desert festival. The likes of none other than Leonardo DiCaprio and Clint Eastwood told me that even they were impressed with this desert oasis and what it's become. Palm Springs just has that laid back casual vibe, so it's not uncommon to see A-list celebs strolling on nearby Palm Canyon Drive, or having a drink at the very cool mid-century modern Parker Hotel, where the famous stay and play. Of course, stars have been linked to Palm Springs for many decades, and traces of that early Hollywood history still remain. Just off Palm Canyon drive, you can stroll by an unassuming house with a giant 'L' statue in the driveway. This happened to be the home of — you guessed it — flamboyant performer Liberace, who spent many happy years in the desert.

Nearby sits many other celeb getaways from a bygone era, including the homes of Kirk Douglas, Dean Martin and Marilyn Monroe. You can even rent the unassuming little rancher used by Elvis for his honeymoon with Priscilla back in the '60s. Many of the "Springs" famous old school watering holes and restaurants like Le Valeris and Melvin's have their walls covered with pics of famous regulars like Sinatra and Sammy Davis Jr. Even the city's Desert Memorial Graveyard has become a tourist attraction, where many come to pay their respects to the final resting place of Frank Sinatra.

If you go...

- **Hit the hot tub at Palm Mountain Resort and Spa.** The perfect spot to unwind in the radiance of the desert sun, just steps from Palm Canyon Drive downtown.
- **Visit the Village Pub.** Great live music and cheap drinks at this little pub. One of my favourite places in town!

Darren Parkman with Clint Eastwood in Palm Springs DARREN PARKMAN

Rockwell exhibit brings Americana to Winnipeg

Art. Iconic illustrations that romanticized American life make their debut in Canada at the Winnipeg Art Gallery

The man whose very name evokes an idealized and nostalgic picture of all things American is making his first — and only — major foray north of the border.

But anyone living outside of Winnipeg will have to travel to see Norman Rockwell's unique view of American life in person. All of his iconic illustrations — which appeared primarily on the cover of The Saturday Evening Post magazine for almost 50 years — and many of his most seminal paintings are on tour and making their one and only Canadian stop at the Winnipeg Art Gallery.

The exhibit, which runs until May 20, is expected to draw not only visitors from across Canada but also many from the northern United States.

"Rockwell — beyond capturing American life ideas, issues and politics — was able to encapsulate much of the 20th century, which is often called, in the world of art, America's century," said Stephen Borys, executive director of the gallery.

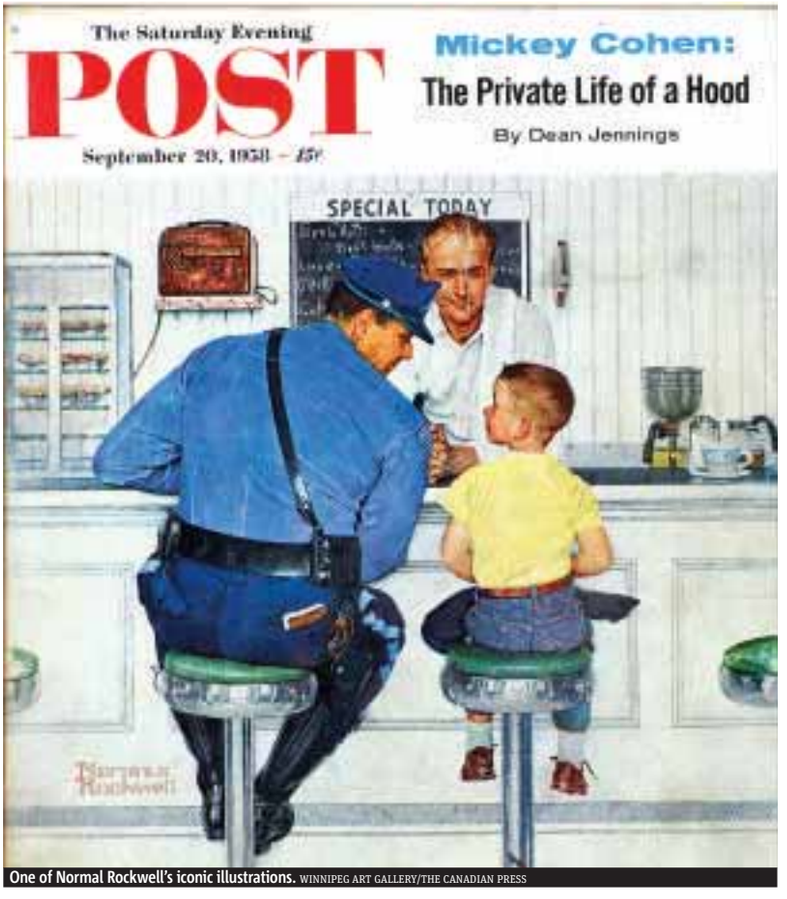
"To have one artist following the development of a nation, of a people, from the first decade of the 20th century to the eighth decade is extraordinary."

Many of Rockwell's pieces have become legendary for their Leave It To Beaver reflection of small-town America. Rockwell's work often shunned social conflict, presenting romanticized and humorous depictions of family life.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

If you go...

- **The exhibit.** American Chronicles: The Art of Norman Rockwell runs to May 20th at the Winnipeg Art Gallery. Tours held on Saturday and Sunday at 2 p.m. Gallery hours: Tuesday through Sunday 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Thursday 11 a.m.-9 p.m., closed Mondays.
- **Special events.** There are a number of special events, workshops and talks associated with the exhibit including a visit by Norman Rockwell's son Peter, who will talk about his father's work on April 27 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Another talk March 11 from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. will examine Rockwell's vision of America while Rockwell's role in advertising and consumer culture will be discussed April 15 from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.



One of Normal Rockwell's iconic illustrations. WINNIPEG ART GALLERY/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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PERSONAL SUPPORT WORKERS CARE

MEDIX PROGRAM TEACHES STUDENTS HOW TO SUPPORT THEIR CLIENTS

ISTOCKPHOTO/THINKSTOCK

Personal Support Workers are capable individuals who thrive on improving the quality of life for each and every client.

Health Canada has told us that in 2001, one in eight Canadians was older than the age of 65, but in 2026 that ratio will be one in five, with the fastest growth occurring in the 85 and older age group. The majority of seniors now receive some health-related home care or assistance with housework and personal chores. Add to that the rising numbers of clients in long-term care facilities, and it is easy to see that the need for Personal Support Workers (PSW) is growing and will continue to provide career opportunities for the right people.

The 25-week program of study at Medix shows students how to support all clients in their activities of daily living while maintaining a safe environment. At any given time our PSW students may be in the kitchen planning and preparing meals for special diets, or practising the techniques of safe lifting, or guiding and coaching their "clients" through the hallways with devices used to assist a person with mobility.

Classroom work addresses the challenges of aging-related diseases, cognitive impairment, dementia and loss of functional ability, stressing the need for compassion and caring for both the client and their family.

Our soft skills program is unique to Medix and is designed to build an understanding of how our mind works so that we can further develop the emotional intelligence (EQ) that more and more employers are looking for. That EQ allows us to maximize our potential to achieve our goals more easily and enjoyably! Who couldn't make good use of that?

As you can see, an education at Medix is delivered with a very holistic approach. We have a team of instructors who love what they do. We appreciate the benefits an education brings not only to our students and their clients, but also to their families, their client's families, and their community. We value the diversity of our student population and we learn from them every day.

Over the past 35 years, Medix School has earned a reputation for supporting students from admission through to employment. Our Placement Department provides each student with one-to-one time to ensure that all graduates have the job interview skills and a professional resumé that will get them hired. Several agencies call the Medix Placement Department first when looking to employ PSWs. They know that each graduate has experienced many weeks in both a long-term care facility and a community setting before being eligible to graduate. They know, too, that each graduate has passed a third-party exam to meet the PSW standard required by the province of Ontario.

If this is the career for you, join our next PSW class beginning March 20. To learn more about this or any program, call 519-659-4822 and ask for Nicole.

Medix offers continuing education for certified PSWs, too. Gentle Persuasive Approaches training is desired by many long-term care facilities. Sign up for our next session scheduled for March 31. A real plus on any resumé!

Think outside the box when it comes to handing out your resumés. Your degree may offer more opportunities than you think. ISTOCK

Start up the search

The heat is on.
Many companies have already started their summer hiring; take down these tips and get yourself out there as soon as possible.

LAUREN FRIESE
talentegg.ca

Job search outside the lines

Most students have a very narrow view of what job opportunities are available to them based on their degree, but you can potentially put your education to use in almost any industry.

For example, as a finance student, don't only apply to banks. Check out or create finance-related jobs in other industries or types of businesses that may also need people in finance, which is every industry and business!

Start building your online presence

Develop a simple online portfolio or blog to showcase your work and include the URL on your resumés.

Don't have much work experience? Post relevant school projects, write blog posts about your industry to show how passionate you are, and display recommendations from former bosses, professors, co-workers and classmates.

Actively approach employers online

More and more employers are using online tools to market jobs and interact with potential candidates, so use them to your advantage! Find and target the companies and people you want to work for and make an effort to interact with them.

TALENTEGG.CA IS CANADA'S LEADING JOB SITE AND ONLINE CAREER RESOURCE FOR COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND RECENT GRADUATES.

Twitter

@TalentEgg: What was your first summer job? What did you learn?

@HumairaRiaz
It was as a trainer aide. I picked up skills like marketing and human resource management and it was a lot of fun.

@EvanBirtch
I worked in catering 4 my Summer job, taught me about listening 2 what the customer really wanted;turned into a highschool career

@aanchal_
first summer job: AMC Theatres Film Crew Member. Learned that a smile and + outlook always impresses the boss!

@xrubylin
Cashier at #CaffeArtigiano eventually became a Barista, then a manager. Currently working as an intern in #ResearchInMotion #RIM

@TalentEgg: Do you have any summer job search tips for other TalentEgg-ers?

@justinabraham
Start early and don't get easily discouraged! If you send out 10 resumes and get 2 responses, you are doing great!

@CoutureCreative
Best tip: persistence. That, and using networking and industry contacts to your advantage. Not all jobs are posted to the public.

@SaranRavindran
Keep track of applications, make a copy of job descriptions and cover letter used to apply. Simple tip, but many forget.

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Cosy up with a soup & salad duo

Butternut Caesar Salad. This delicious version with squash winterizes the classic starter and pairs well with steaming soup

This recipe serves four. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

No matter how delicious a caesar salad is, chilly temperatures tend to be a turnoff for all things leafy green.

Which is why tinkering with the basics of this classic salad can create a winter-friendly version that is true to its tangy, cheesy roots, but also hardy enough to be desirable on a cold night.

Keep the classic romaine base, but bulk it up with roasted cubes of butternut squash. Warm and substantial, butternut is the perfect base for a robust caesar dressing. Add to that some freshly made croutons and it's a perfect light dinner.

Want to make it more substantial? Slice some boneless, skinless chicken breasts into thin strips, season with salt, pepper and garlic powder, toss them on the baking sheet with the croutons and squash for the last 20 minutes of baking.

Ingredients

- 500 g (1 lb) peeled and cubed butternut squash
- 45 ml (3 tbsp) olive oil
- Salt and ground black pepper
- 1 L (4 cups) cubed rustic bread
- 5 ml (1 tsp) garlic powder

Dressing:

- 125 ml (1/2 cup) extra-virgin olive oil
- 3 cloves garlic
- 4 anchovy fillets
- Juice of 1 lemon
- 5 ml (1 tsp) Dijon mustard
- 1 ml (1/4 tsp) ground black pepper
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) grated Parmesan, divided
- 2 heads romaine lettuce, chopped

1 In bowl, combine squash with 15 mL (1 tbsp) of oil, tossing to coat. Season with pinch each of the salt and pepper, then transfer to one half of parchment paper lined baking sheet. Roast in preheated 200 C (400 F) oven for 10 minutes.

2 Meanwhile, place bread cubes in the same bowl, drizzle with remaining olive oil and toss to coat evenly. Season with garlic powder, salt and pepper. Add bread to other half of baking sheet and roast for about 20 minutes or until squash is tender and croutons are crisp.

3 Dressing: In a blender, whirl olive oil, garlic, anchovies, lemon juice, Dijon, pepper and 15 ml (1 tbsp) of the Parmesan until smooth.

4 Place romaine in bowl, then drizzle with dressing and toss. Divide among 4 serving plates. Top each serving with squash and croutons, then drizzle with remaining dressing. Sprinkle each serving with some of the remaining Parmesan. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ADAPTED BY EMILY RICHARDS, A PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR AND TV CELEBRITY CHEF. FOR MORE VISIT, EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA.**

Tomato & potato soup

1 In saucepan over medium-high, heat oil. Add onion, garlic and sweet potato. Sauté 10 mins. or until potato starts to brown.

2 Add diced tomatoes, tomato sauce and chicken broth. Bring to a simmer and cook for about 20 minutes or until potato is very tender.

3 Working in batches if needed, transfer soup to a blender and puree until smooth. Return soup to pan, stir in vinegar and season with salt and pepper to taste.

4 In a small bowl, mix together almonds and rosemary. Ladle soup into serving bowls, then sprinkle almond mixture over each serving. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ ADAPTED BY EMILY RICHARDS. VISIT, EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA.**

Tomato & Sweet Potato Soup with Almonds Ingredients

- 30 ml (2 tbsp) olive oil
- 1 onion, finely diced
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 500 ml (2 cups) peeled, diced sweet potato (1 large)
- 1 can (796 ml/28 oz) diced tomatoes
- 1 can (426 ml/15 oz) tomato sauce
- 500 ml (2 cups) chicken broth
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) balsamic vinegar
- Salt and black pepper, to taste
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) chopped marcona almonds
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) finely chopped fresh rosemary

Drink of the Week

Key Lime Smoothie

Treat yourself to a taste of the tropics with this filling breakfast smoothie. Featuring heart-healthy walnuts and chock-full of omega-3s and fibre-rich avocado, this breakfast replacement will give you the fuel you need to kick-start your day.

1 In a blender or using a hand blender, combine all ingredients and process until smooth, about 1 minute.

- 1/2 avocado
- 1/2 small banana
- 175 ml (3/4 cup) cold water
- 75 ml (1/3 cup) walnuts, chopped into halves or crumbs
- 75 ml (1/3 cup) low-fat coconut milk
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) honey
- Juice of 1 fresh lime

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Crosby cleared for contact but remains cautious as ever

NHL. 'It's nice to be symptom-free, but it's not as fulfilling until you get out there,' says Penguins superstar

Sidney Crosby's head is clear. The superstar's return, however, remains murky.

The Pittsburgh Penguins captain participated in his first full practice since concussion-like symptoms resurfaced in December and there is growing optimism he'll be back before the playoffs begin next month.

Crosby insists there is no timetable on when he'll be cleared to play in a game, but he looked crisp while spending more than an hour on the Consol Energy Center ice.

"It's a good step," Crosby said Tuesday. "Hopefully, I can keep the momentum and get out there soon."

Though the headaches and motion issues that have bothered him intermittently since a loss to Boston on Dec. 5 have subsided, Crosby has been through this drill too often to get too excited.

The 24-year-old former MVP was spectacular in his return from a 10-month layoff in November, scoring twice in his season debut against the New York Islanders and collecting 12 points in eight games before he woke up with an all-too familiar feeling on Dec. 6.

During the initial comeback he was cleared for contact in early October and had to wait about six weeks before getting the OK to suit up for a game.

It may not take that long this time.

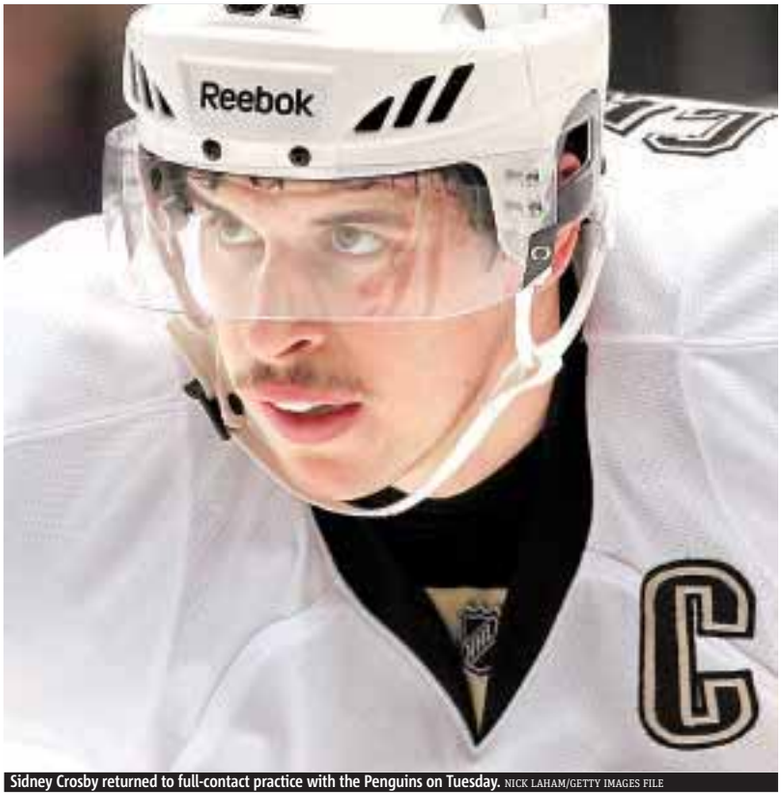
"I'm going to give myself days, for sure, of contact," Crosby said. "If you look at our schedule, we have two more practices, I think, this week. No sooner than Sunday I would say but I'm not going to sit here and put a date on it. It would be total guesswork."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Coach's comments

"It was man-on-man type stuff, some puck battles.... We had him get through today, we'll see where we progress on day three, four, five and six."

Penguins coach Dan Bylsma on Sidney Crosby.



Sidney Crosby returned to full-contact practice with the Penguins on Tuesday. NICK LAHAM/GETTY IMAGES FILE

Colts, Manning breakup imminent: Report

Peyton Manning and the Colts will part ways on Wednesday, according to an ESPN report. ANDY LYONS/GETTY IMAGES FILE

The Peyton Manning era in Indianapolis is expected to end Wednesday, according to a report.

Citing anonymous sources, ESPN reported Tuesday that the Colts plan to hold a news conference to announce the long-expected decision. Manning is expected to attend.

Team owner Jim Irsay and Manning's agent, Tom Condon, did not immediately respond to messages left by The Associated Press. Team spokesman Avis Roper said he could not confirm the decision or the news conference because Irsay was out of town and unreachable.

Manning turns 36 later this month, and missed the entire 2011 season after a third neck surgery. Before that, he'd never missed a game in his 13 NFL seasons.

He is owed a $28 million roster bonus on Thursday, and with the Colts holding the top draft pick, they apparently have decided it was too risky and pricey to keep the four-time league MVP.

Manning is the Colts' career leader in every major passing category, one of only four players in NFL history to throw for more than 50,000 yards and is third all-time in touchdown passes (399). THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Injury timeline

- **During the 2009 off-season, after a Super Bowl loss,** Manning had his first neck surgery.
- **Then, after an early playoff exit in 2010,** he had another neck surgery to repair a nerve causing weakness in his arm.
- **Last July, Irsay signed Manning** to a new five-year, $90 million extension. But the nerve did not heal as quickly as expected and Manning had two vertebrae fused together, forcing him to miss the season.

NFL

Moss works out for Saints

The New Orleans Saints held a workout on Tuesday with veteran receiver Randy Moss, who is trying to make a comeback after a year out of pro football. The club did not provide any details on how the 35-year-old performed. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL

Leafs re-up with centre Grabovski

The Toronto Maple Leafs signed centre Mikhail Grabovski to a $27.5-million US, five-year contract extension on Tuesday. He was due to become an unrestricted free agent July 1.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mikhail Grabovski
JAMIE SABAU/GETTY IMAGES FILE

NFL

Saints brass take bounty blame

New Orleans coach Sean Payton and general manager Mickey Loomis take "full responsibility" for the bounty program run by former assistant coach Gregg Williams, and said it will never happen again. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MLB

"It's like when you're getting remarried and you are renewing your vows. That's how I feel."

Centre-fielder Andrew McCutchen who agreed to a to a six-year, $51.5 million deal with the Pittsburgh Pirates on Tuesday.

Curling

"It's not fun in that one of us has to lose. We really need that win so we're going to have to come out and play well."

Alberta skip Kevin Koe on his upcoming match at the Tim Hortons Brier against his brother Jamie, who skips the Yukon and Northwest Territories. The brothers clash in Saskatoon on Wednesday morning. Alberta sat atop the leaderboard at 6-1 on Tuesday while the surprising team from the Territories were tied for second with Ontario at 5-1 before Tuesday's evening draw.

5 DRIVE

Top Gear

Keychain link

Auto-themed keychains make excellent and inexpensive gifts for the car fanatic in your friends and/or family circle, including, of course, yourself. And a wide selection can be located at everythingcarz.com, among other online stores, including miniature disc brakes, gear-shift levers, steering wheels, along with tire/wheel and seat belt/buckle combos.

Wrangle up a Hemi

The folks at American Expedition Vehicles (AEV) can help turn your tepid Jeep Wrangler into one heck of a boonie basher with the help of the company's Hemi conversion kit. The standard $4,000 package includes the correct engine mounts, steering hardware, an aluminum radiator, wiring harness and the appropriate powertrain control module. aev-conversions.com.

On the Web

Scan code for more car reviews and news

Softer grille is the new style

ALL PHOTOS WHEELBASE

Four-wheel-drive

When the going gets tough, the Pilot's available four-wheel-drive system (VTM-4) automatically engages to direct additional torque to the rear wheels as needed before the fronts lose traction.

Power is also distributed aft when accelerating from a stop on slippery surfaces.

Passenger pleasure

For enhanced passenger pleasure, the Pilot has improved noise-reducing seals beneath the body panels, added insulation inside the door pillars and "quieter" acoustic windshield glass.

The cabin features a restyled dashboard, gauges and central panel stack.

2012 Honda Pilot

- **Type.** Four-door, front-/four-wheel-drive eight-passenger sport utility vehicle.
- **Engine (hp):** 3.5-litre SOHC V6.
- **Mileage:** L/100 km (city/hwy) 11.8/7.8 (FWD).
- **Base Price (incl. destination):** $36,400.

The Pilot's 3.5-litre V6 produces 250 horsepower.

Engine

Honda has coaxed greater operating economy from the standard 250-horsepower 3.5-litre V6 with internal-friction-reducing coatings, by improving alternator performance and with higher efficiency spark plugs. Additional mods include a more efficient power-steering pump.

Review. Honda charts a slight course correction for its popular all-roader

MALCOLM GUNN
Wheelbase Media

It has been said that the eyes are the window to the soul. In automotive terms, perhaps the same can be said for the grille.

More specifically, Honda's eight-passenger Pilot that was redesigned for the 2009 model year projected a go-anywhere strength and ruggedness.

Too tough, maybe. A restyle for 2012 softens the look for friendlier, more aesthetically pleasing demeanor.

Added to the grille adjustment, the Pilot receives new headlamps along with new and repositioned turn signals and a revised front air dam that reduces fuel-robbing aerodynamic drag.

What remains pretty much hidden from view is the Pilot's familial connection to Honda's premium-division Acura MDX.

Both of these unique wagons share the same basic platform, but from that point the comparison pretty much ends.

The Pilot's squared-off shape reinforces its sport utility-vehicle leanings, although ground-clearance limitations restrict the fun to boulder-free terrain and shin-deep – as opposed to knee-deep – mud. Even so, fording a 48-centimetre-deep body of standing water is apparently no problem for this rig.

Taken in its entirety, the modestly tweaked 2012 Pilot isn't a whole lot different.

But in a category where impressions count, this Honda puts its best face forward and backs it up with sufficient comfort and capability to win the day.

The biggest change in the cabin is the centrestack switchgear and gadgetry.

A look at the rear of the Pilot.

By comparison

1 Mazda CX-9
Base price: $30,200

2 Nissan Pathfinder
Base price: $29,400

3 Toyota Highlander
Base price: $28,900

Time machine in Chile

Autoknow. Revisiting 1988 with the help of a Hyundai Elantra

GARRY SOWERBY
Wheelbase Media

Life is comfortable inside the Hyundai Elantra GLS.

It's quiet too, except for the flipping-map-page sounds that my wife Lisa Calvi is making.

We are relaxed and joke about all the things we'll do on our escape from North America's gloomy, frozen winter.

Traffic is speedy on the four-lane freeway and even though the cruise control is set precisely at the 120 km/h speed limit, almost every car on the road is passing us. In the late afternoon the sun is high, looking more like noon.

My mind wanders then focuses on the last time I drove this Chilean section of the Pan American Highway. That was 25 years ago and instead of motoring south to the Colchugua Valley in a nimble and sporty Elantra, it was north in a diesel pick-up truck. It wasn't my loving wife beside me but burley Montana-based Rolling Stone magazine writer Tim Cahill.

The interior of the Elantra is neat and tidy. There's perfect instrumentation, my iPhone on the centre console and laptop computers in the back seat beside a Nikon digital camera.

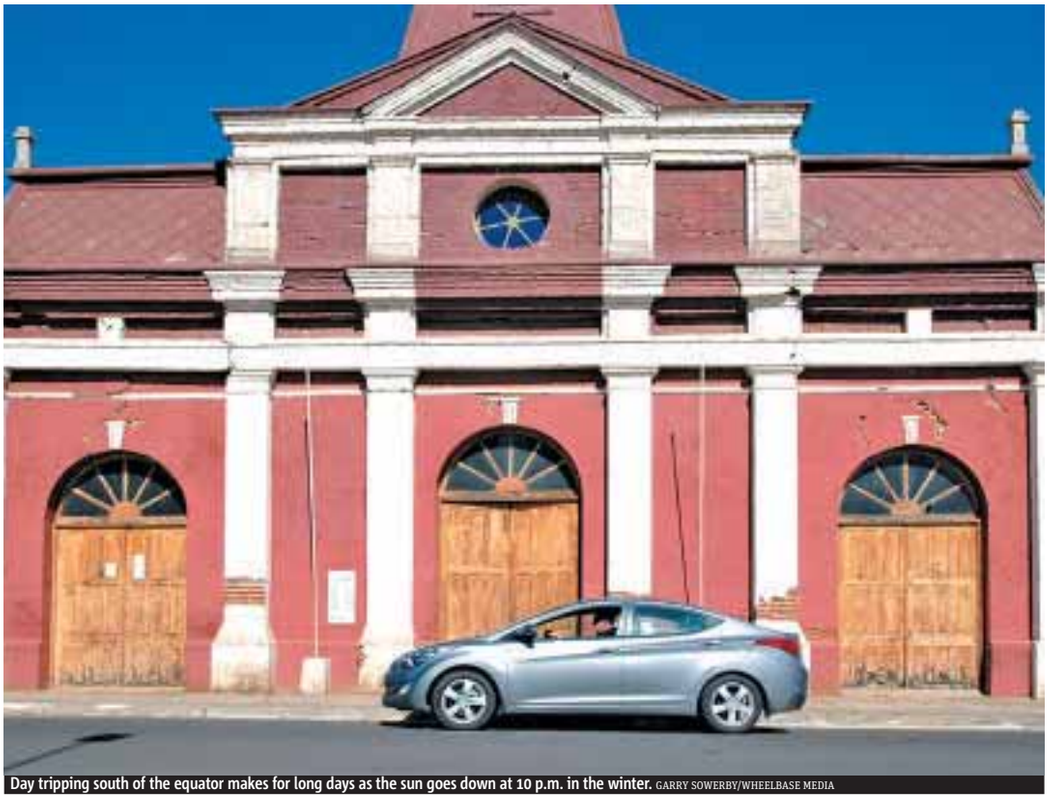
Want to touch base with home? Simply pick up that iPhone and call, text or email. No need, we'll be in Santa Cruz, hub of the Colchugua Valley winery area, settled into the cosy Hotel TerraVina in an hour. Our biggest problem will be deciding whether to try the upscale Italian Restaurant across the vineyard or the cute Peruvian one down the road for a late sunset dinner.

Quote

"Driving Chilean secondary roads is like playing an arcade game. Traffic moves at a lively clip and tailgating seems a national sport as drivers prepare to pass."
Garry Sowerby

Twenty-five years ago when Tim and I were at this point in the first production 1988 GMC 3500 diesel Sierra pick-up, things were different. We had driven non-stop for three days from Ushuaia on the Argentina side of Tierra del Fuego, about the same duration since Lisa and I arrived in Santiago.

The Sierra was filthy inside and out. Tired and wound tight with what lay ahead, we looked and smelled the part; bleary-eyed young men bent on setting a new record for the quickest time from the bottom to the top of the Americas to set a Guinness record. We were hoping to rendezvous with a container ship in Carthana, Columbia on Day 11 of the quest. We had no iPhone, laptop computers or digital cameras because they did not exist. Texting, email, fax machines or a freeway Chilean sector of the Pan American Highway? Dream on.



Day tripping south of the equator makes for long days as the sun goes down at 10 p.m. in the winter. GARRY SOWERBY/WHEELBASE MEDIA

"Take the Carrtera del Vino exit four kilometres past San Fernando then its about 45 minutes to the hotel." Lisa snaps me out of the daydream.

Over the next week we slip into vacation mode as every day seems like two. With sunset close to 10 p.m. winter days are long that far south of the equator. Life at Hotel TerraVina surrounded by a seemingly endless vineyard is relaxed.

A week in Chile's premium wine-making area tucked in the Andean foothills 200 kilometres south of the sprawling capital Santiago is like an all-inclusive holiday, indeed. However, rather than being trapped in the confines of a Caribbean or Mexican beach resort with throngs of North American vacationers, Colchagua Valley with its meandering back roads, superb wineries and funky commercial hub, Santa Cruze, is a resort all its own.

On the 11th day, we load the Hyundai for the three-hour drive back to Santiago and our flight home. As I set the Elantra's cruise control at 120 km/h, I look over at Lisa. She is tanned and relaxed as she checks e-mail on her iPhone.

"There's a message here from the airline," she says. "Looks like the Business Class upgrades have come through."

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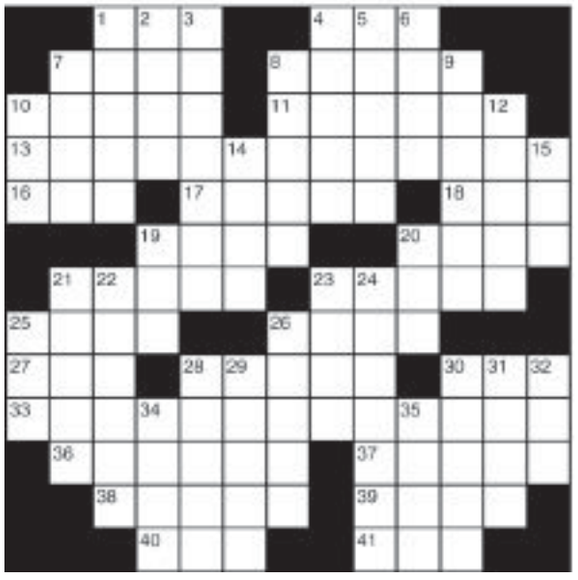
Crossword



Across

1 Animation frame
4 "Undeniably"
7 Pop
8 Knighted women
10 Dark
11 Gather
13 Paid
16 Possess
17 66, for example
18 Dead heat
19 "Green Acres" setting
20 Old fogy
21 2009 news-making pilot, familiarly
23 San Diego athlete
25 Sicilian spouter
26 Small pie
27 In favor of
28 Paces
30 Glutton
33 Behaving
36 Throw off the tracks
37 Particular occasion
38 Type of cotton thread
39 Tittle
40 That woman
41 Bookkeeper (Abbr.)

Down

1 Punctuation marks
2 Rewrite, maybe
3 Sideways
4 Pleasure boat
5 Host
6 Belgrade native
7 Winter forecast
8 Fact
9 Swain
10 Venusian vessel?
12 Drop a sound
14 "Finding Nemo" character
15 Virgo neighbor
19 Orlando st.
20 Banned pesticide
21 Got up
22 Play out, as fishing line
23 Maze option
24 "— and Old Lace"
25 Sala-mander
26 Piece of info on a marquee
28 Grit your teeth
29 Spry
30 1492 craft
31 Erstwhile Peruvian
32 "Gosh!"
34 Rainbow
35 Circle

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

Monday's answer

Sudoku

4					6		1	8
			5					7
8			1				2	
			8	9	5		4	
	2						6	
	9		7	6	2			
	8				1			3
3					7			
7	5		9					2

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer

6	2	5	1	7	9	8	4
8	7	9	4	3	6	1	2
3	4	1	2	8	5	6	9
2	9	3	7	4	1	5	8
7	1	6	8	5	2	9	3
5	8	4	6	9	3	2	7
9	5	7	3	1	8	4	6
1	3	2	9	6	4	7	5
4	6	8	5	2	7	3	1

Send a kiss

- **MY MAN.** okay maybe not today, but tomorrow or that next day for sure. i dont even know why were arguing anyways LOL but i waanna talk to you so imma do it, it would be easier if you would meet me in the library by those round tables at the back at 1124. Ill be waiting:P love you From extraextralious
- **Vikky Prince.** hi tori you dont know how happy i am its true you promised to come here to your home but didnt still i am glad that you are in calgary and with your family HAPPY FREEDOME. From Jose
- **Bimmervalt Secret Crush.** It has been 8 months and my feelings for you get deeper and deeper by the second. I love you although you don't. I know I'm such a loser!!! From Loser
- **Blitz.** I had such a good time being big spoon last night, you are the perfect little spoon. Call me so we can do it again soon! From TheGayGhost
- **Sexy Redhead in Eng Phys.** I think I have the eigenfunction, to satisfy your eigenvalue problem. Nerd love <3. From Eng Phys Lady to be

Horoscope

♈ Aries | March 21 - April 20. Someone on the work front is giving you a hard time at the moment but you are advised to stay calm and not let your anger get the better of you

♉ Taurus | April 21 - May 21. You will defend someone you don't much like today.

♊ Gemini | May 22 - June 20. If you fear the worst today then the worst will most likely happen.

♋ Cancer | June 21 - July 22. The approaching full moon warns there is a real chance you will bite off more than you can chew and end up looking silly.

♌ Leo | July 23 - Aug. 22. You will either get an extraordinary amount of work done today or no work at all

♍ Virgo | Aug. 23 - Sept. 22. You feel you deserve more than you are currently getting, and no doubt you are right, but it won't just happen as if by magic.

♎ Libra | Sept. 23 - Oct. 22. This could be and should be a beneficial time for you, but good things won't just fall into your lap.

♏ Scorpio | Oct. 23 - Nov. 21. You will get lucky in some way today, but you may feel guilty about it as those around you have to deal with a series of misfortunes.

♐ Sagittarius | Nov. 22 - Dec. 21. Someone in a position of authority will put you to the test over the next few days and you will need all your mental and emotional strength to win through.

♑ Capricorn | Dec. 22 - Jan 20. Don't waste your time on people who are either too lazy or too stupid to work things out for themselves.

♒ Aquarius | Jan. 21 - Feb 18. Give your mind and body a rest over the next 24 hours

♓ Pisces | Feb. 19 - March 20. Believe in yourself and have faith in your abilities.

SALLY BROMPTON

JONATHAN HAYWARD / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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